THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI S. GANDHISELVAN): (a) to (c) The matter of parity of Physiotherapists with MBBS and BDS was examined by the Vth Central Pay Commission and not agreed to. The educational qualification and the nature of duties of Physiotherapists are not comparable to those of MBBS doctors and BDS (Dental Surgeons). Further, the Physiotherapists like medical practitioners do not diagnose, investigate, prescribe, treat and follow up patients with various diseases. The Physiotherapists are required to take the advice of doctors with in regard to starting of physiotherapy or occupational therapy and continuing such treatment.

Shortage of typhoid vaccine

1288. SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that there is acute shortfall of vaccines in the country;

(b) whether Government is also aware that this shortage has occurred due to closure of three important laboratories in the country;

(c) whether Government is also aware that the vaccine particularly typhoid vaccine has not been available for the last six months; and

(d) if so, the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) There is no shortage of Vaccines under Universal Immunization Programme (UIP) in the country at present. However, for some months in 2008, there were shortages of Diptheria-Pertusis-Tetanus (DPT), Tetanus Toxoid (TT) and Diptheria Tetanus (DT) in some States due to non-fulfillment of supply commitments by manufacturers. These were overcome by October, 2008, and since then there have been no shortages.

(c) and (d) Vaccination for typhoid is not a part of Universal Immunization Programme.

Food Regulatory Authority

1289. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN:
SHRI N.K. SINGH:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has recently set up Food Regulatory Authority (FRA) and appointed representatives of food giants as members of its key scientific panels;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the interest of consumers are at risk as major food giants have been nominated on the watch dog body;

(d) if so, the reasons of appointing representatives of food giants on FRA; and